


Japan joins Power Africa, with a focus on geothermal technology

A campaign to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa just got a boost.

Japan has joined [Power Africa](#), an initiative President Obama announced in 2013. Japan has committed to bring 1,200 megawatts of power online. As part of its agreement, Japan will work with African governments to develop renewable [geothermal power](#), which is heat derived from the Earth.

In East Africa's Great Rift Valley, where two of the Earth's tectonic plates are slowly pulling apart, geothermal energy is low-cost, and low in carbon emissions.

Seiji Okada (right) of the Ministry of  Foreign Affairs of Japan signs a new partnership with Linda Etim of USAID to join Power Africa. (Eric Onyiego/Power Africa)

More than 100 private-sector partners, host governments and multilateral organizations are participating in Power Africa. The goal is to help the estimated two out of three people in sub-Saharan Africa who currently lack electricity.

Japan's partnership in Power Africa also helps the world make progress on the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals](#), including ensuring that all people have access to [affordable and clean energy](#) by 2030.

Japan's decision "sends a strong message to African people that our governments are taking the issue of energy poverty seriously," said Seiji Okada, Japan's ambassador for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development.
